



FROM BOBBY AND  
SHERRY BURNETTE IN HAITI...

# JACKSON'S STORY

“ FOR YEARS, SEVEN-YEAR-OLD JACKSON  
HAD BEEN EATING NOTHING BUT CORNMEAL  
AND FLOUR MIXED WITH WATER. NOW, HIS  
MOTHER HAD SENT HIM AWAY...TO DIE. ”



It was a very dangerous mountain range to cross. We had been making this trip to the village of Savaan Pit in Haiti for many years. Only “four-wheel-drives” could make it, and we could not begin to count the number of times we had broken down in **the middle of nowhere and had to walk in.**

## THOUSAND-FOOT DROP-OFFS

One narrow, ribbon-like dirt road was the only road across the top of the mountains. There were **thousand-foot drop-offs** on each side. We kept looking at the clouds and checking for rain, because if it started to rain, our vehicles would surely **slide over the edge of the mountain** and we would lose our lives...as many others had done.

After hours of bouncing on the sharp rocks, the dust swirled up, choking us. Everything we were carrying with us was “covered with dust,” and still, we had a long ways to go. This time, we were going to take food and medical care to all the poor adults and children who live in these “regions beyond” in Haiti where there are no stores, no electricity, no clinics, no doctors, very little clean water, and “tiny, scrawny, dry gardens.” It is here where many children die of malnutrition.

We still had hours to go **on these treacherous** mountain roads. We kept praying that God would keep us all safe and that there would be no accidents and no rain, just a safe trip.

## THE LITTLE BOY WITH THE BIG BELLY

That morning, as the sun was coming up, Jackson's uncle shook him to wake him. Today, his uncle would take him to the “missionary school” where there was going to be a mobile medical clinic and food for everyone who came. It was very difficult for Jackson to roll over and stand on his feet. The **seven-year-old's stomach was swollen so badly, it looked as though he were pregnant.** Jackson had “**Kwashiorkor Malnutrition.**”

# SEPTEMBER 2014

## ONE MORE MOUTH TO FEED

Life had always been difficult for Jackson's family. Their father had a **small garden, mostly full of rocks and weeds**. It had been Jackson's job to help his father "hoe" the garden each day. His mother had two smaller children at their "kay pay" or stick and straw hut and now, **she was expecting another**. How could she possibly "feed one more?"

Each morning, Jackson would have to go to the "family garden" on top of the mountain, carrying his garden hoe, or "woo" in Creole. A "woo" is a long, pole stick with handmade "metal" on the bottom of it. It is used by many of the peasants for hoeing big rocks from the gardens and for digging up the soil for planting.

## DRY WEEDS AND NO FOOD

But the soil was poor, the rainfall little and all Jackson's father could afford was mostly "corn seed" that would hardly ever grow. Each year, it went from bad to worse. Day after day, Jackson and his father fought the rocks, the scorching sun, and the lack of water. Many days, the garden was just a bed of "dry weeds."

Since Jackson was the oldest, he had suffered the most from malnutrition. Often times, his mother would only feed him cornmeal or flour mixed with water. He was developing the most dangerous kind of malnutrition...Kwashiorkor, which comes from the African word meaning "second child." When the first child is born and still should be breastfeeding, the second child comes along too quickly, leaving the first child without the nourishment he needs because of the "second child."

## CORNMEAL AND FLOUR

Being fed mostly "cornmeal and flour" his entire life, Jackson was now dying a slow death. His face and feet began to swell and his belly grew "like he was pregnant."

Jackson tried his best to work in the garden every day, but his body was beginning to shut down. He went from being a "happy boy" to a very, very sad child.

## SENT AWAY TO DIE

Jackson's mother knew that she could not feed another child and that Jackson would die. Since there was not enough food for all of the family, she made the decision to send Jackson to live with his uncle. But, Jackson knew that he was being "**sent away to die**."

As our trucks arrived way back in the mountain village of Savaan Pit, we began to prepare to unpack, set up the clinic and start cooking the food. Before we could even begin, a man walked up to us, holding a little boy by the hand... "**a little boy with a big, bloated belly**" and a **badly swollen face**.

## I WANT TO GO HOME WITH YOU

We were shocked when we saw this little boy, with the swollen, moon-shaped face, the sad eyes, the swollen feet and the huge, swollen belly. As the Haitian doctor began to examine him, he shook his head and said, "He is in very serious condition. He has Kwashiorkor Malnutrition."

We knew that if we couldn't take him back with us, he would die. So, we told his uncle, "Bring him back on Friday and we will take him with us and get him medical care." We had several days of clinic ahead of us with hundreds of people and children to feed and we knew it would be difficult for us to care for this child and conduct this large medical clinic at the same time. But, Jackson looked at us with tears running down his face and yelled in Creole, "**Please don't leave me. Take me home with you. I won't ever leave you!**"

# JACKSON'S STORY

Imagine, a child this young, in the midst of strangers, who are another race and speak another language, yet somehow, as young as he was, he knew "this was his only chance and he was not going to give it up." That night, Jackson slept with us. He stayed with our entire team. We fed him and then took him back "home" to our orphanage.

Jackson is now under medical care. He has to have his stomach "drained" nearly every day. He has breathing problems and is in danger of also having kidney problems. He has to be monitored very carefully and has to eat a lot of eggs, meat, beans, and other protein.

His stomach is still very badly swollen. It may take a long time for it to return to normal but, at least Jackson now has a "chance."

## CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Can you imagine what it's like to look into the eyes of a hungry child and have them "beg you" to take them home?

Can you imagine what it's like for a child, like Jackson, to eat the same thing every day...cornmeal and flour mixed with water? Can you imagine the pain and suffering of even one child?

Some people have asked us, **"What does hunger look like?" The answer is simple. Hunger looks like Jackson.** That's why we are sending you his picture. He is not just a statistic. He is a little boy with a heartbreaking story and his name is **"Hunger."**

No, it won't be easy for you to lay this letter aside, but God speaks through many ways. He speaks through His Word. He speaks through His people. And, He speaks through a child...a child like Jackson.

Jackson's life will be spared because you are a faithful Love A Child Partner. **You have helped rescue Jackson.** Wouldn't you love to rescue more "Jacksons?" It is easy...but, it will require a sacrifice.

We receive donated food from our friends at Feed My Starving Children. This food comes in big, "40-foot containers" and each container has inside of it 270,000 meals for children, children just like Jackson.

We have to send a container up to Minnesota to pick up the food and then, send the filled container to Miami. From there, we send it by boat to Haiti. Once in Haiti, we have to clear Haitian Customs and then, have the container of food brought to Love A Child Village. This entire process costs us **\$10,000 per container of 270,000 meals.**

We must bring in **six to seven containers of food each month** to meet the needs of feeding more than 7,000 school children and all the children and people in our village feeding programs, orphan homes, and many, many more.

August and September are some of our roughest months and sadly enough, we have lost two partners that were each sponsoring one container of food. We were grateful for their pledge and for keeping their commitment but, this has put a tremendous load on our already heavy shoulders.

# JACKSON'S STORY

## HUNGER NEVER TAKES A VACATION

August is the month when everyone takes a vacation, and many “forget about the poor.” But, “hunger never takes a vacation.” If we take a vacation from the “cry of the poor,” children like Jackson will die. So, every day counts and every dollar counts.

## HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP US IMMEDIATELY:

Your gift of \$24 will provide 648 meals; your gift of \$48 will provide 1,296 meals; your gift of \$120 will provide 3,240 meals; and your gift of \$500 will provide 13,500 meals. But remember, every gift and every dollar counts. The widow's mite is very precious to Jesus. Your sacrificial gift will help us feed hungry children like Jackson, and help us keep all other projects of Love A Child going. Every gift counts. Every gift saves lives.

August has, and September will, put a heavy burden on our shoulders. We are still lacking monthly funds for two containers of food, but if you “do whatever God lays on your heart,” He will multiply your gift and the need will be met! It is critical that you get your gift to us today. We thank you again for your help, and Jackson thanks you for your help. We know that the Lord will bless you back 100-fold for giving to the poor. Nothing touches the heart of God as much as giving to the poor. (Psalms 41:1-3)

We don't have much to offer you in return for the great sacrifice that you are making to feed the hungry, but we know beyond any doubt, that God will provide for you and your family because of your “giving to the poor.”

On behalf of little Jackson, who is still struggling to regain his health, and all of the precious hungry children in Haiti, thank you for “listening with your heart” to the “cry of the poor.”

*Bobby and Sherry Burnette*

Missionaries Bobby & Sherry Burnette

*P.S. When sending your gift, please let us know if you would like for us to send you an update on Jackson, his health, and a current photo as well as let you know how the feeding programs are doing because of your generous sacrifice. We love you and we thank you for “rescuing the children.”*

You can give your gift online today at: [www.LoveAChild.com](http://www.LoveAChild.com)



Love A Child is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian Humanitarian organization serving the needs of children in Haiti. In addition to being a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), Love A Child has earned the Independent Charities of America “Best in America” Seal of Approval and eleven consecutive Four-Star ratings from Charity Navigator.

2013 Financial Statement:

